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LETTER

FROM A *K Baxter (T.)*
GENTLEMAN at *Barbados*

TO HIS
FRIEND now in *London,*

CONCERNING THE
ADMINISTRATION of the late
Governor ^{*Genl*} *B-y-n-g.*

*By Tho. Baxter Esq. Attorney
General*



L O N D O N :

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P R E F A C E.

*T*H E following Letter was sent me, with full Liberty to dispose of it as I should think fit; and finding the same calculated for general Use, and indeed design'd for the Press in Barbados, I apprehended it would be altogether improper, if not unjust, to conceal it here; especially after an Address, taken notice of therein, had been dispersed throughout the Kingdom in our Weekly News-Papers. Natural Justice dictates, that each Party should be heard before either is condemned; which will hold as well on Appeals to the Publick, as with regard to Matters depending in established Courts of Judicature; and this is an Account perhaps which may be as fairly adjusted, now both are in their Graves, as before. I soon resolv'd therefore, to put the Performance into such Hands, as would not fail to send it abroad exactly as it came to mine; and it was judg'd most eligible to do so, without the Privy of the late Governor's Friends, because it manifestly relates to Transactions beyond their Inspection, and the World might, besides, by such a Conduct, be sure of the genuine Sentiments of a very discerning Person on the spot.

But with this Publication of my Friend's Epistle, I must be allowed to declare, that as, I could not possibly have any share in the Disputes which are the Subject of it, so neither am I any way interested in them. For tho' I was necessarily engag'd in all the political Contests of that Island,

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for

PREFACE.

for more than twenty Years precedent to these (which it were rather to be wished had been buried with the Ashes of the two Principals) I had yet the Satisfaction to leave it a few Months before Mr. B---g's Arrival, possess'd of the entire good Will of the Inhabitants, then in perfect Harmony amongst themselves. How far I might be instrumental to so desirable an Union, I cannot say; but am certain my constant Endeavours for that purpose were not wanting, since I ever had, as I shall always retain, a sincere Affection both for the People and the Place, where it has already been my Lot to spend the better part of Life; and having therefore no great Ambition at these Years, I shall not much grudge quietly to end it in the same Climate.

The Name subscribed to what is now offered the Publick, will undoubtedly be sufficient to procure the Attention which That deserves. But I can do no less, on this Occasion, than acknowledge, that a long Intimacy with the Author has given me the strongest Proofs of Veracity and Candour; as his Station, during my Absence, must of course have afforded him the best Opportunities of knowing the Facts he relates. However, to these I shall add no Remarks of mine, on one Side or the other, but frankly leave every Reader to form his own impartial Judgment upon the whole.

Lincoln's-Inn-Fields,
March 10, 1740.



J. B.



T O
Jonathan Blenman, Esq;
I N
L O N D O N.

Barbados, December 27th, 1740.

S I R,



IN the last Letter I had the Honour to receive from you, there is something like a Complaint of my not being particular enough in the Account I formerly gave you of Mr. B---g's Reception, and the Disputes that have happen'd in his Administration. You are pleas'd to think my Experience in this Island
B enables

enables me to form a tolerable Judgment of Persons and Things; and my present Station will not suffer me to be a Stranger to its publick Affairs. The Truth is, while that Gentleman was alive, I knew his Actions would speak for him daily, and justify him much better than any thing I could write. Besides, I really did not like the Subject. The Contest between the Governor and Mr. P---s was inglorious on the part of the former; because, tho' he was sure of Victory in the End, yet he despair'd of reaping Honour from it.

But after all, if one had ventur'd to trouble you with a tedious Story of the old Follies of *Barbados* acted over again (where you have seen an Assembly supporting one Governor in all things unlawful, and opposing another in all things lawful) yet he could never have thought of removing that Load of Calumny that has lately been thrown upon Mr B--- : He might as well have anticipated a Charge of *Robbery or Coining*, as those Forgeries that have been so industriously transmitted home, and are now echo'd back, both in private Letters and publick Prints. As things stand at present, our late Governor can't answer for himself; and yet his Memory, his Family, and his Friends, call aloud to have the Account between him and his Enemies adjusted; and as nothing can be sufficient for this Purpose, but Facts that are either notorious, or well attested, so I shall be obliged
to

to enter into a Detail, exceeding the ordinary Bounds of a Letter ; not doubting your usual Indulgence to an old Friend, who is neither fond of, nor us'd to this Way of Writing, which necessarily touches upon personal Character.

On the 15th of *December* 1739, his late Excellency arriv'd at *Pilgrim-House*, which he found in such Order as was far from denoting a hearty Welcome to his Government. He must have walk'd up to the Door through Grass and Weeds, if the Diligence of the *Treasurer* had not apply'd a hasty Remedy to this as well as some other Indecencies. The Garden was a mere Waste, and he never was allow'd a Gardener to put it in Order ; a Trifle that has hardly been denied to former Governors. *The taking of his Baggage by the Spaniards*, had left him destitute of almost every thing but his Plate and his Cloaths ; no small Disadvantage, besides the Loss, in a Place where he could not be supply'd for Money, and where Parade and Shew are esteem'd vital Parts of Government. The Inhabitants, thro' Fear, Dependence, Necessity or Example, were devoted blindly to the Will of one Man, whose imaginary Interest and real Intention it was, to distress a new Governor. This was so generally the Case, that it will hardly admit of any Exception, unless that of the Counsellors, Lawyers, some of the Publick Officers, and a few Planters, who

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were

*in May 1739. Robert Byng, 3^d son of Geo.
1st Viscount Torrington was appointed Governour
of Barbadoes where he died on 6th Oct. 1740*

were Men of Sense and clear Estates. Even the *Secretary*, who was at the same time * *Clerk of the Council and of the Assembly*, was the Bosom-friend of the Governor's determin'd Enemy, and enjoy'd those two incompatible Posts, for Reasons well known to his Patron. In private Conferences, as well as the Assembly's Address, the Governor was entertain'd with long Declamations upon the Poverty of the Country, the stedfast Resolutions of its Representatives concerning his Appointment; and was often told of the seasonable Notice that had been given him in *England*, to confine his Expectations within narrow Limits. Not a Word all this while of his Excellency's *consummate Wisdom and Justice, with all those shining Qualities that adorn Government and make it useful*. No more than a dry, forc'd Compliment or two, importing that he was early acquainted with Business; and that they expected some Good, because they never had heard any Ill of him. The Governor remonstrated, that the Country was now in a much more flourishing Condition than my Lord *H---* found it in; he was conscious

Francis Whitworth

* That Gentleman is now only Clerk of the Assembly; for being convinc'd, it seems, that both Posts were incompatible, he resign'd the other, and the Secretary here (in whose Patent it is) has appointed a new Deputy.

scious of having brought with him as good Intentions as the best of his Predecessors; he was not sensible that his Character was blemish'd; his Design was to spend every Shilling he should receive from the Country (of which he gave solemn Assurances) and he hop'd to approve himself not unworthy of any Favour that might be shewn him. But if he were less consider'd than his immediate Predecessor, he could not avoid thinking it was setting a Mark upon him; an Indignity offer'd him, under which he could not sit easy. As his utmost Demand was a Settlement equal to L---d H---'s, so he should never desire or accept of more in any Shape whatsoever.

While the Event of this Negotiation was doubtful, the Governor's Affability, open Behaviour, and Hospitality, gain'd upon the Minds of all that came near him; and they did not fail to utter their Sentiments and hearty Wishes that he might be gratify'd; judging this the only Measure that could procure Peace and Happiness to the People. The whole Council, and most of the Assembly were of this Temper; and I can assure you faithfully, I did not meet with one thinking Man among Mr. P---'s best Friends who thought differently. But all these thought for the Publick, Mr. P--- for himself. To explain which, it will be proper to review some former

mer Transactions, which you will easily recollect.

in 1735

You may remember, Sir, that this Gentleman's first Notion of obtaining the Government of this Island was conceiv'd immediately upon the Death of L----d H----w. The Project, I am told, was form'd between him and my Lord's Chaplain, who found Means of persuading him, that if he made a Friend of Lady H-----, she would be able to procure the Post for him, and the *English* Salary for herself. To work he fell immediately, and got a Present of 2500 *l.* voted to the Lady; which Sum was paid as the Price of his future Government. For you are sensible, he was liberal, without Measure, of the publick Money, when he could find his Account in wasting it; witness *the two memorable Country-Orders* for 810 *l.* A detestable Fraud! which exercis'd all your Vigilance and Sagacity in detecting and disappointing it. But this Chimera soon vanished, and made Way for something a little more substantial, tho' not more successful; upon which however he built such sanguine Expectations, that he could not refrain from expressing his Joy to you, who, he well knew, could share no Part of it. All his well-wrought Schemes being at length disconcerted, he resolv'd on playing an After-game. Accordingly he draws the then Assembly into such Resolutions as he thought proper, transmits the same to their Agent at
Lon-

London, and thereby beats down the Value of the Government so low, that he hoped no Person of Condition would accept of it; and the Ministry would be reduced to throw it away upon him, who was, of all Men living, the most unfit for it. But this Master-piece of Policy fail'd like the rest; for a new Governor was appointed at home, and shortly expected here.

What then must a forlorn, disappointed Gentleman do? Ambition was no more. --- There was some Comfort still left. A Sacrifice was due to Rage and Envy; the Post was to be made bitter to the Man who had been hardy enough to supplant him; and what is more, there was a Way open for exercising the Powers of the Government, without having the Commission. Just in this Situation did Mr. B---g find our *Demagogue*, who was at the same time *Speaker of the Assembly, Master of the Ordnance, and Colonel of that Regiment which is nick-nam'd the Royal Regiment of Foot-Guards*; and this will serve as a Key to all the important Transactions of the nine Months following. Do but figure to yourself that extraordinary Personage stalking up, with his usual State, to the Governor, and carrying in his Hand *a Pair of Leading-strings* ready to put on; the one rejecting the Offer with Scorn, while the other persists in his Rudeness; protesting that his noble Predecessor wore the same honour-
able

able Badge; and that the best Lord in the Land might wear it without Disparagement. Keep this Image, I say, in View, and it will give you an adequate Idea of the Behaviour of both. Methinks you are ready to demand some Proof of this. A little Patience, Sir, and you shall have it. But first let us observe the Contrast between the publick Treatment of L---d H--- and that of his Successor, on their respective Arrivals in this Island, when they were both equally Strangers to the People, who had in truth no Experience of either.

On the 13th of *April*, 1733, my L---d
 * *H*--- came on Shore, where he found a decent Provision made for him and his Family, and on the 8th of *May* following, the Assembly address'd him in these words, which are so extraordinary, that I chose to transcribe them from the *Council-Book*, lest you (who had no Hand in this Draught) should suspect I had mistaken or misremember'd something.

' We the Representatives of the People of
 ' this Island, do with the most profound Re-
 ' spect congratulate your Excellency's safe Ar-
 ' rival in this Island, and beg leave sincerely to
 ' rejoice with your Excellency at your wish'd-
 ' for Happiness in the Safety and good Health
 ' of the Right Honourable the Lady *H*---
 ' and your tender Family, after the Fatigues
 ' of a long and dangerous Voyage, which affords
 ' us the greatest Satisfaction, as it yields your
 ' Ex-

* *Scotch Viscount Howe appointed Governor of Barbadoes in May 1732 - he died there 29. March 1735.*

‘ Excellency the most sensible Blessings and
 ‘ Comforts of this Life.

‘ It was, may it please your Excellency, with
 ‘ the greatest Pleasure we receiv’d the first
 ‘ News of his Majesty’s great Goodness in ap-
 ‘ pointing a Nobleman of *your distinguish’d*
 ‘ *Merit and Character* our Governor; and it
 ‘ was still with greater we receiv’d repeated
 ‘ Assurances from our Correspondents in *Eng-*
 ‘ *land*, that your Excellency’s precious Time
 ‘ at such a Juncture was chiefly employed in
 ‘ the Service of this poor Colony; such an In-
 ‘ stance of Generosity and Humanity affording
 ‘ us an early Presage of what still may be fur-
 ‘ ther expected from your Excellency’s favour-
 ‘ able Interposition and generous Solicitation for
 ‘ Redress of our Grievances, gives us likewise
 ‘ the greatest Hopes of your Excellency’s En-
 ‘ deavours proving successful. And we are the
 ‘ more confirm’d therein from the several Re-
 ‘ solutions of Parliament already agreed to in
 ‘ our Favour. This happy Turn in our Affairs
 ‘ we never could doubt of, from the known
 ‘ Goodness and paternal Care of our most gra-
 ‘ cious Sovereign, as well as from the Justice
 ‘ of a *British* Parliament, whenever a generous
 ‘ Advocate appear’d in our Favour to represent
 ‘ *the deplorable State and Poverty of this*
 ‘ *Island*. And who so proper as our Gover-
 ‘ nor? *A Nobleman for whom, give us leave*
 ‘ *to say, Providence seem’d to reserve the glo-*
 ‘ *rious Task; a Task fit only for the ablest*
 C State-

‘ *Statesman of uncommon Generosity and consum-*
 ‘ *mate Parts and Experience ; Qualities (we*
 ‘ *humbly beg your Excellency’s Pardon for af-*
 ‘ *firming a Truth unpleasing only to your Ex-*
 ‘ *cellency) all centering in the Lord Viscount*
 ‘ *H—— A Task, rescuing a distressed Country*
 ‘ *from Ruin ; and which therefore must reflect*
 ‘ *with Honour, and add fresh Lustre to all*
 ‘ *your Excellency’s other great and noble Qua-*
 ‘ *lities ; since all good Men agree, that the*
 ‘ *Glory of being a true and virtuous Patriot to*
 ‘ *a declining or distressed Country, is superior*
 ‘ *to, and far more excellent than all the pom-*
 ‘ *pous glaring Titles of the greatest Conqueror.*

Now, Sir, tho’ I have nothing to say against
 the *able Statesmanship, and the consummate*
Parts and Experience that center’d in that
noble Lord, whose Memory I honour for the
 Sake of his good Intentions and extensive Bene-
 volence ; yet it may be ask’d, I hope without
 Offence, how these profound Politicians were
 able to make this Discovery in the Space of
 Twenty four Days, when hardly any thing had
 been said or done, except Matters of Form.

More light will still be derived from the
 Preamble of the Act for settling that Gover-
 nor’s Appointment, which pass’d the Twenty
 ninth Day of the same Month, where there
 are these Words.

‘ The

' The Representatives of his Majesty's most
 ' dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Inhabitants of
 ' this Island, taking into their Consideration the
 ' present State and Condition thereof, and hav-
 ' ing the greatest Regard and Tenderness to
 ' the Circumstances of the People they repre-
 ' sent ; but at the same time justly conceiving
 ' reasonable Hopes of having their Grievances
 ' redress'd from *the generous Endeavours of his*
 ' *Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount*
 ' H—— their present Governor, to retrieve
 ' the Trade and Condition of this Island, from
 ' the time his most sacred Majesty was graci-
 ' ously pleas'd to confer on him the Government
 ' thereof, and from *the many Steps his Excel-*
 ' *lency, out of his singular Humanity, has taken*
 ' *for the Relief of the People committed to his*
 ' *Care, and also reflecting on the great Ad-*
 ' *vantages which still may be procured for*
 ' *them thro' his Influence,* and faithful Repre-
 ' sentation of the many Hardships this Island
 ' still labours under, and weighing, above all,
 ' the happy Effects of a mild, just, and pru-
 ' dent Administration, which, with the utmost
 ' Satisfaction, *the Representatives of the People*
 ' *do most assuredly promise to themselves from*
 ' *the excellent Qualities of his said Excel-*
 ' *lency, &c.*

How exalted the Hopes and Expectations of
 the good People might have been at that
 Juncture, I cannot take upon me to deter-

mine; and I profess myself at a Loss to know what *the many Steps* were that his Lordship had taken for their Relief. But I remember very well, and You have cause to remember, that my Lord, good natur'd Gentleman as he was, had some time before adopted the Passions of the Speaker, whose Resentment he made you feel, as much as he was able to make you feel it; and that without any Reason or Provocation on your Part. There are other Instances of the same Nature, that can hardly escape your Memory.

But the *Coup de Maître* of the Speaker is display'd in *the additional Act* to the former, which pass'd the twentieth Day of the next *November*, which take as follows.

‘Whereas the said Sum (3000 l.) of the Currency of this Island is found by Experience not to be sufficient to answer the Ends and Purposes for which the same is intended, the Representatives of this Island seriously taking into their further Consideration the very great Charge and Expence his said Excellency hath already been, and still necessarily must be at, in his constant Endeavour, unwearied Application, Industry, and Diligence, to promote the Welfare and Prosperity of the People of this Island, &c.’—Therefore they vote him another 1000 l. making all together 4000 l. per Annum.

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The End and Purpose for which the first 3000 *l.* was settled, is declared to be for supporting the Honour and Dignity of the Government, which I can easily believe could not be done with that Sum; but pray, Sir, did you ever hear what those *great Charges and Expences* were, that attended my Lord's unwearied Application and Diligence in promoting the Publick Good?

But what do you think, Sir, *the Speaker himself* was to have had from his poor dear Country, in case he had obtain'd the Government instead of Mr. B——? A Gentleman of undoubted Credit, who was in the Assembly at that time, and whom I can always call upon, assur'd me that this Candidate, when his Hopes run very high, told him, he had been computing the necessary Charges that would attend his expected Promotion; that, inasmuch as he had several Advantages above a Stranger, in respect of his being settled in the Place, he should be able to live with tolerable Decency upon 25 or 2600 *l.* a Year, which *he thought the very least that would answer the Purpose.* But the same Gentleman concurs with several more of the Speaker's intimate Friends in asserting, that he would have had at least 3000 *l.* and probably another thousand; for there was nobody to oppose it, and he was never known to let slip an Occasion of getting as much Money as he could.

Mr.

Mr. B—— however had 2000 *l.* a Year allotted him by an Act of Assembly, dated the 26th Day of *February*, 1739, because it was well known to be insufficient for affording him common Conveniences without a most strict Oeconomy; by which means he must have lived in a State of continual Dependence. Nay, there are many strong Reasons that induce others as well as myself to think, that if 100 *l.* more would have satisfied him, and that Sum could have been yearly dug out of a Gravel-Pit, it would have been denied him; because, if given, there would have been nothing more to ask, whereas the fix'd Intention was to keep him in a craving Condition.

The Assembly also voted him 2500 *l.* to repair his Losses at Sea; but he was far from desiring, nor did he at all relish it, tho' his Circumstances did not put him above accepting of it. He was, indeed, willing to take it as part of a Salary equal to his Predecessors; but that would not do with his Benefactor, who designed this as a Specimen of the manner in which he was to be supply'd; it was to shew him that he was to be fed from Hand to Mouth, in Proportion as he should continue to deserve favour at the Hands of the sovereign Disposer of the Publick Treasure. Thus you see, as one Assembly, govern'd by the Speaker, settled 4000 *l.* on Lord *H*—— at the most distressful Period in all Respects that *Barbados* ever

ever knew ; so another refus'd, under the same Direction, to settle more than half that Sum on Mr. B——, at a time when the Island enjoy'd more solid Prosperity than it had done for twenty Years before. And here it may not be improper to remark, that they had acted the same Farce upon the Nomination of Lord H——, as they afterwards did upon that of his Successor, by entering into Combinations, Protections, and Oaths, not to settle more than 1500 *l.* at the utmost. The truth is, the Speaker soon perceiv'd that Mr. B—— was a Man fit to govern, and therefore would not be govern'd ; that as he grudg'd no Labour of his own, so he did not care to put others to the Trouble of thinking for him ; upon which the other took his Leave formally at *Pilgrim*, as a Place where he could not expect to be Master any longer ; nor did he ever come there again, except once to beg a Favour.

His next Step was going about and publishing his Sufferings in the Cause of his dear Country, affecting at the same time to have a greater Stock of Vigour and Spirits than was natural to him, and crying *he was grown young again* ; the first Day his Age was come back to 45, and in a few Days more to 37, the Governor's Age : And thus he play'd Gambols thro' Town and Country for some time ; while every Mortal who went to *Pilgrim*, without an immediate Call of Business, was

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an Enemy to the *Demagogue* and to *Barbados*.

But after all, did not this Gentleman propose to save, and actually did save 2000 *l.* a Year to the Publick, and is not this some Merit? Believe me, Sir, this was far from his Thoughts; for he was very willing to have loaded the Country with more, if the Governor would have put himself wholly under his Tuition, as is already hinted. And now you'll give me leave to shew how I certainly know this to be true.

Before any Settlement was made, I saw the Speaker by chance at a third Place; for he seldom came to me, and I never went to him. He thought fit to touch upon the reigning Subject of that Time, which gave me an occasion of hinting, that as the Whole of that important Affair roll'd upon him, so it behov'd him to make the best Bargain he could for his Country; but he would do well to consider, that it was not every Shilling a Man kept in his Pocket, that was so much really sav'd. His Answer was, that *there were great Reasons why the annual Salary could not be to the Governor's Mind, but that Means should be found of making him easy another Way.* The same Thing he has repeated on other Occasions. I understood him perfectly well, but knew too he would find himself mistaken, as well on account of his Majesty's express
Instruc-

Instruction against taking Money in that Manner, as against the Governor's unalterable Purpose of being Independent. Let me add to what is just now said, that those of his Faction made no Scruple of declaring, that Mr. B---g was very imprudent in breaking with their Leader, because he might have had more than 4000 l. tho' in another Shape than that of a yearly Settlement. And yet some of these Persons would go about, the same Hour, and tell the ignorant People that the Speaker was their Saviour and Deliverer from an all-devouring Dragon, whose Hunger was not to be appeas'd with less than 4000 l. a Year.

I believe, Sir, you perceive already, that Mr. P-- had no Merit of this Sort; but if you desire to be past all doubting, please to cast your Eye upon the following Extract of a Letter, which was propos'd to the Governor to be sent by him to the *Demagogue*. The Original Draught, which is now before me, was pen'd by the Clerk of the Assembly, and by him put into the Governor's Hands on the 16th of *January* 1739, as the sovereign Balsam that was to heal all Sores, and without which nothing but Gangrene and Mortification could ensue.

‘ If you believe me, Sir, to be sincere in
‘ my Professions, as I most solemnly de-
‘ clare

' clare I really am, you can't be insensible,
 ' how much it must affect me to have Dis-
 ' putes or Contests with one of your Cha-
 ' racter, and be forc'd to lay aside that Ac-
 ' tiveness I purposed to make use of for the
 ' Service of the Island; and instead thereof
 ' only to look upon myself sent here to
 ' exercise the Authority which my Com-
 ' mission, and the Laws of the Place enables
 ' me to do, *without considering whether*
 ' *the doing so may be beneficial or prejudi-*
 ' *cial to the People*; for if I am treated
 ' with Disrespect, and suspected, I can't help
 ' being jealous on my part; and when that
 ' prevails between Persons, little good can en-
 ' sue. I am well satisfy'd that you, Sir, have
 ' no other Views than the Service of your
 ' Country, which has long experienced your
 ' great Abilities in the Stations you bear;
 ' and I can't help thinking myself unhappy
 ' in being appointed to this Government,
 ' (*which I assure you I was, without seek-*
 ' *ing for it*) after some Steps had been made
 ' to have you the Person; which had I
 ' known before my Appointment, I believe
 ' I should have lost the Pleasure of your
 ' Acquaintance, as my Interest, if I had
 ' known you, Sir, should have join'd your
 ' other Friends for your succeeding; and
 ' therefore *I flatter myself, that as I*
 ' *knew nothing of the Affair, you will not*
 ' *blame*

‘ blame me for appearing here in this Station, but give me leave to afford you part of the Power, while I bear the Name of the Office.’

What do you think, Sir, of this curious Piece ? Don’t *the Leading-strings* here stand confess’d ? Surely such a shameful Prostitution of the Dignity of Government, as was here contriv’d, needs no Comment. And therefore I shall only observe, that Mr. B--g thought of it as it deserv’d ; and leave you to judge whether the Penman dar’d to have made an Overture of this Kind, without the Privity of his Patron.

But to return to the Period when the Settlement was made. The Governor being now at the End of his Hopes, sat down calm and serene, enjoying his Friends, without shewing the least Mark of Displeasure against any one of the Faction. He was sensible he had no legal Claim to 4000 *l.* or any other Sum ; yet he found himself distinguish’d from his Predecessor, much to his Disadvantage, without one plausible Reason to support the invidious Distinction. Yet he did not fail to separate the Innocent from the Guilty, not finding Fault with the Stone that hit him, but regarding the Hand that threw it. He clearly acquitted the People of *Barbados* in his Conscience, condemning

only one Man, who he knew had oppos'd him from the basest Motives ; and therefore it is but doing Justice to say, he never quitted his Hold till he brought him fairly to the Ground. He would sometimes say, they had reduced their Governor to live as a private Gentleman ; but that was no great Mortification to him, who had always liv'd in that Manner. His Loss at Sea was now accounted a Blessing, because he was depriv'd of an Equipage, which he wanted the Means of supporting. But nothing of this Sort abated his natural Activity ; for he was indefatigable in reviewing the Militia, visiting the Fortifications from one End of the Island to the other, preparing wholesome Laws, and reforming the Magistracy, which stood in great Need of a Reformation. In all these Functions, and many more, he shew'd a Zeal and Industry that never have been equal'd here, and perhaps can't be exceeded any where. This was what the other could not endure, that his Adversary should enjoy Tranquillity, and carry on an easy unexceptionable Administration, in which he had no Share, while himself was eat up with Indignation and Revenge. In short, he lost his Temper daily, in proportion as the Governor kept his.

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One of the first Pranks he play'd was in this Manner : He had hurried the President into holding a Council of War on the 8th of *November* 1739, before the Governor's Arrival, and even before the Declaration of War had reach'd us. On this Occasion, he, who took all upon himself, mov'd the President, that he would give the necessary Orders to have the Intrenchments repair'd and put into the best Order. The Expediency of the Thing was not to be questioned, had it been seasonable. But after the Declaration of War with *Spain* was published, and repeated Advices had rais'd strong Apprehensions of a War with *France*, Mr. B--g express'd his Intentions of having immediate Care taken of the Entrenchments. This Measure, however reasonable or indeed necessary it had been deemed a few Months before, when it was not certain there would be any War at all, was now, when a War actually subsisted, call'd a Piece of great Oppression and Tyranny, design'd to harraß the poor People, because the naughty Governor had been disobliged. The Speaker gets his Assembly-men together, and dictates to them a Message to be sent to the Governor, (not as an Act of their Body, but as their private Opinion) *that his Orders for repairing the Entrenchments, tho' lawful, would not be obey'd*; which insolent Message was

was accordingly deliver'd in Form by the Clerk of the Assembly, when I happen'd to be at *Pilgrim*. Judge you, Sir, whether it was high Time for Mr. B---g to try who was to be Governor, he, or Mr. P----s ? The issuing such Orders which before had been highly proper in Point of Safety, was now become indispensible in Point of Honour. The Commissioners of Fortifications were called together, and directed to take the proper Steps appointed by the Law for effecting this useful Work ; but withal to do it in such a Manner as would be least inconvenient and burdensome to the Inhabitants. When the Commissioners for St. *Michael's* Division met, Mr. P---- represented to them, that as there was no Assembly then in being (for the Writs were not yet return'd) they could not proceed upon Business legally, before they were join'd by the Members for the several Parishes in their Division. The Act for appointing Commissioners of Fortifications was read, the Words and Meaning of which were clear enough to all, except a very few, who had an uncommon Share of Illumination. It was then resolv'd to take the Opinion of the Attorney General upon the Construction of the Act, which ordains, *that the Counsellors, Field-Officers, and Assembly-Men for the Time being, in each Division of the Island, shall be Commissioners of*
For-

Fortifications, and that any three of them shall be a Quorum. Upon a formal Reference of this Matter, the Attorney-General reported his Opinion, which unhappily differ'd from that of Mr. P—; *for he conceiv'd clearly that three made three.* But our Hero in Politicks, who was not us'd to be stagger'd by Trifles of Law and Right, declar'd, that the Opinion of no Lawyer on Earth should weigh down his own, for that Lawyers construed Acts by the Rules of *Westminster-Hall*; but he knew what was the Meaning and Intention of the Legislature, tho' it could not be collected from the Words. But as the Commissioners in general were Men of Sense and Spirit, they agreed with the Lawyer, *that three made three*; so that the *Demagogue* was over-ruled once in his Life, and had no Resource but entering a senseless Protest against the Proceedings of the Board, without any Foundation of Reason, Law or Precedent. A grievous Defeat! owing chiefly to the Absence of his faithful Myrmidons of the Assembly, who were never known to deny him a Vote in any one Instance. In a Word, the Governor was obeyed, and the Work was done, without any Noise, Murmuring, or the least Hardship impos'd upon any one. Let me ask, Sir, if you think such a perverse Trifler as is now describ'd, was fit to be let into any part of the publick Business, from which he might lawfully be
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shut out, after discovering so untoward and childish a Disposition to embarrass every Thing that was propos'd by the supreme Magistrate, without any Distinction of Right and Wrong?

Soon after this, the Governor having observ'd at his several Reviews that most of the Regiments of *Militia* had been neglected to a scandalous Degree (many Soldiers appearing without Arms of any Kind, and even without Shoes and Stockings) order'd the Secretary to write Letters to the Colonels of the several Regiments, the Speaker being one, requiring them to make Returns of their effective Men, and of those who were absent, as also of those who were unprovided with Arms, and whether these last were unable to purchase Arms, or for what other Reason they wanted them. The other Colonels made Returns as satisfactory as could well be expected: but the only return that could be got from the *Lieutenant-General* was a saucy Letter to the Governor, which I have seen; nor could he ever be drawn into an Eclaircissement of the Reasons why so many Men appeared unarm'd, because he well knew it would have come home to himself, who was so notorious for disregarding the *Militia-Act*, in Point of Arms and Accoutrements, that one of the Appraisers who took
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an Inventory of all his Chattels, after his Death, assur'd me, that he was surpriz'd to find there were hardly Military Implements enough to equip one Foot Soldier; altho' the Quota, which he was bound by Law to furnish, surpass'd that of most Planters in the Island, and amounted to a great Number of Men. In a State of War and publick Danger, such Remissness would hardly be thought, in any other part of the World, becoming a Patriot and a General Officer, on whose single Aid the Safety of his Country has been lately said to depend.

While this singular Gentleman was thus bidding Defiance to his Governor in the most lawful and prudent Acts of Government, he took care to inform him that no considerable Change for the better was to be expected. For this Purpose he made use of his usual Conveyance, the Clerk of the Assembly, who in his Letter of the 19th of *April* 1740, (which I have) wrote to the Governor thus; ' From some Discourse I have had with the Speaker, he seems to be in a much better Temper with regard to the Publick, tho' *determined never to be in any great Confidence with your Excellency* ; and which indeed I fear there is no Prospect of having again renew'd.' An unhappy Circum-

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stance!

stance! that at a Time when an Invasion of the Enemy might be apprehended every Hour, no Confidence subsisted between the Captain-General and the next Officer in Command.

I choose to suppress the low Scandal and brutal Scurrilities that were every Day thrown out by the Faction, the mean Artifices incessantly us'd to render the Governor odious to the common People. Raking into such Filth would serve only to blot my Paper, and hurt your Attention. And therefore I proceed to ask, What Mr. *B*——g could or ought to have done in these Circumstances? If he had alter'd his Measures, it must have been for the worse; for the World could not charge him with one Act of Mal-Administration. Must he have resign'd his Authority to Mr. *P*—— and contented himself *with the Name of his Office*? This, indeed, might have made his Peace, because it was the only Bone of Contention; yet I imagine you would scarce have advis'd him to it. You will possibly think there was no Room for Deliberation; there being no other Expedient left, than to pull down this *Colossus*; at least Mr. *B*——g was of that Opinion, and accordingly removed him from all his Military Employments, on the 10th of *June* 1740.

1740. This you know, Sir, he might well do, out of the Fulness of his Power, without assigning any Reason, or being accountable. Yet he did not satisfy himself with doing it, because he could do it, but at the next Council of War enter'd his Reasons at large in the Minutes of that Board ; the Truth and Validity of which Reasons were sufficiently obvious. The Governor at the same Time took Occasion to express his Approbation of Mr. *Ap——te*, who is a much better Officer than the other, if you will take the Word of your old Acquaintance, who spent a Part of his Youth in the Army ; and says, that tho' he never knew much of Military Affairs, and has forgot something ; yet he remembers enough to satisfy him, that Mr. *P——* knew very little of the Matter. I have often heard him assert this in the Life-time of that celebrated General, and give what I thought good Reasons to maintain his Assertion.

The Removal of Mr. *P——* affords a remarkable Æra in the late Administration. The Governor had been hitherto no more than the most disagreeable of Mankind in Mind and Body, big with ill Intentions which he never discover'd, contriving mischievous Schemes which no body knew what they were, to be reduced into

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Action

Action no body knew when. At Cock-fights and Funerals, Parties of Diversion and of Business, these had been the Topicks ; and the Poison was swallow'd with the Punch, while no one was at Hand who had Understanding and Fortitude enough to apply an Antidote. Indeed, the less violent Part of the Faction could afford their Pity to the poor Governor, while he had no other Part allotted him than to bear Injuries with Patience. This, I say, had been the Case for some Months ; but now the Governor had pull'd off the Mask ; here was a flagrant Overt-Act of Tyranny, the Head was cut off from the People, and the Body was next to be mangled. The first Outrage which happen'd immediately on receiving the News of the Dismission, I desire to pass over, out of Regard to some well-meaning Gentlemen, who acted on that sudden Occasion without Thought ; after just hinting, that the Behaviour of several of the Officers of his Regiment clearly shew'd, their Colonel's Talent lay rather in disciplining an Assembly than a Regiment. The Regiment, however, was left all at once without an Officer ; and powerful Endeavours were us'd, at second hand, to bring the Officers of other Regiments to follow the laudable Example of these their Brethren ; but the Phrenzy
was

was not so general as the Faction wish'd and expected; for it stop'd where it began.

The great Mystery was, who could advise so unaccountable a Step as the displacing this great Man; till a certain Gentleman unfolded it, by asking some of the Faction, if they thought the Governor wanted any Advice in so plain a Matter; or if they thought he had not one Friend to advise him. To relate the Whole of what pass'd, would appear Romance to all but Eye-witnesses. Among Numbers who rejoic'd at this Event, it is strange how few they were who ventur'd to open their Minds. Besides those, whose Mouths were stop'd by Interest, Dependence, or Poverty (for you well know, Love and Esteem had the least Share in Mens Attachment to the Speaker) many who were free Agents, preserv'd, notwithstanding, a strict Caution in speaking; for it really was the Fashion to be afraid of that Man, whose Resentment, like Death, would spare none, but mow down even whole Families. There can't be a better Proof of this, than the universal Reluctance that possess'd every body against succeeding him in the Command of the Regiment, which prevail'd to so high a Pitch, that the Governor himself was obliged to take it under his immediate Care, and then, by Degrees, he rais'd an
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excellent *Corps* of Officers. Yet this too was effected under great Difficulties ; for the bare accepting a Commission in that Regiment, was Apostacy and Rebellion ; Vengeance was denounc'd against all such Reprobates as would venture to do it, and no Pains were spar'd to intimidate or punish ; of which let me give you two or three Instances among several others. Mr. *B—H—*, who was put upon the new List to be a Captain, fell off suddenly, and desired to have his Name struck out. As he was a Man of personal Worth, and an independent Fortune, his Friends were alarm'd at this Change of Resolution, and desir'd to know the Cause of it. At first he excus'd himself upon his Want of Health ; but being further press'd, frankly acknowledg'd, that he entertained well-grounded Fears for his Sister, who was so unfortunate as to be a Debtor to the Speaker, and would be made suffer for the Fault of her Brother ; so that it was not without great Pains he was brought back. Mr. *J—L—* had been recommended by the Speaker to the Governor, soon after his Arrival, when all Favours pass'd through that Channel, to be appointed Clerk of the Courts of Common Pleas ; in which he succeeded, because he happen'd to come an Hour before another, who was a Competitor for the Office. This Gentleman afterwards

wards taking the Commission of a Captain, very innocently, and for the Service of his Country as he thought, was branded with the Imputation of black Ingratitude, and said to fly in the Face of his Benefactor. Mr. *W*——*M*——, who was in the Assembly, and who had been one of the Speaker's *Aids de Camp*, (for I think he had fix) suffer'd himself to be appointed Major to this Regiment. This in him was Treason; Woe and Destruction were to be his Portion; and from that Hour the Faction form'd a Design, which is now carried on with unrelenting Malice, of turning this Gentleman out of his Parish at the next Election; whose sole Demerit is, that of daring to assist in defending his Country in a Time of War, when the Politicks of our Patriot required that it should be defenceless.

The only Morfel of Comfort he had now left to subsist upon, was the naked Condition of this Regiment, stript of its Officers, without a Prospect of having them re-plac'd speedily; for it was not all the Activity of Mr. *B*---g and his Friends, that was able to find a competent Number of free Spirits, in less than several Weeks. And thrice happy it was for the disbanded General that this was the Case; because a *charming Address* had otherwise been spoiled. The Address

dress I mean, is that of the 8th of *July* 1740, which you have seen, and will speak for itself. The Respect I owe to the present Assembly cuts short all Remarks of mine upon that extraordinary Performance. I know that Body consists, in general, of inoffensive well-meaning Men, who can have no Interest divided from that of their Country, and when fairly left to themselves, desire to do nothing but what is just and proper; but what Lengths such Bodies are capable of being carried by an undue Influence, don't need to be explain'd by the Annals of *Barbados*. I shall only presume therefore to enquire, if the Person who pen'd or dictated that Address, appears to have been in a Humour of sparing Mr. B—— and throwing a Veil over his Miscarriages? If not, why did he not state some particular Fact that was against Law and Right, and not content himself with an unmeaning Charge of unpopular Conduct? For my Part, I never heard that a Governor's misplacing a Militia-Officer was unlawful; how reasonable and prudent it was, in this Instance, must be submitted upon what has been already said. If it was unpopular, the greater the Governor's Misfortune, that a Measure unquestionably lawful in itself, and by him judg'd reasonable and prudent, should nevertheless hurt him in the Opinion of the Populace; but all this while there

there is no Crime. The Consequences of removing this Officer were plainly owing to his own factious Intrigues, and not to any Misconduct in Mr. B—: But further; if this was the severest Address (to say no more) that perhaps was ever presented to a *British* Governor, it must be supposed, in Favour of the Addressers, that this Governor had committed greater Faults than any other. Why then was there not a Charge exhibited against him in Form? Is there not a Way open to the Throne for all his Majesty's Subjects? And have not those of this Island in particular obtain'd Justice from that Resort too recent to be forgotten? But perhaps melting Tendernefs for Mr. B-- prevail'd, and check'd the Pursuit of Justice,---- Let those think so, who have read the Address, if they can. And here, Sir, I can't help expressing my Astonishment, that Gentlemen in *London* were capable of receiving those Impressions, which I find they did, from such insignificant Materials as were put into their Hands. One would almost believe, that strong Resentments of the Abuse of Power had degenerated into a Dislike of the Thing itself, and that the People of *England* were come at length to think it impossible for any Man in Power to be in the Right.

Would you know, Sir, how Mr. B—
 behav'd upon his receiving this Address? He
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put it in his Pocket without reading it, careſs'd every Affembly-Man who came in his Way, and the next Day made one of them a Judge.

But though I don't care to offer my own weak Sentiments of this unparallel'd Piece, yet I can venture to affirm it was not relish'd by the Bulk of the People, according to the Expectation of the Author. They thought the Stile a little too delicate, and the whole too witty for a grave Subject. Some of the Affembly, who voted for the Addreſs, had apprized the Governor of its Contents ; and tho' it paſs'd in a full Houſe, where there was not one diſſenting Voice, yet many of the Members have, in my hearing, and moſt of them (as I am inform'd) in the hearing of others, expreſs'd their Abhorrence of the thing. Your old Acquaintance the Store-keeper could hardly fit in his Chair while it was read in the Houſe, and expreſs'd his Diſapprobation by Shrugs, Diſtortions, and Interjections. And I muſt not omit telling you, that the next time he came to *Pilgrim*, the Governor rallied him on his voting for the Addreſs, with a great deal of good Humour. To which he reply'd — *By G—d, Sir, I did not like one word of it, being convinc'd your Excellency had not deſerved to have ſuch things ſaid to you ; but your Excellency very well knows we are ſometimes obliged to vote*
for

for things we don't approve of. Argumentum ad Hominem. It was owing, however, to the Moderation of the Speaker, *or to something else*, that it did not contain an Accusation of High-Treason, for even that would not have made it miscarry in the same House. But this was not all ; for he had the Mortification presently after, to hear of the Regiment being well Officer'd, and in a fair Way of being put into better Order than when he commanded it. This was a mortal Stab, the Anguish of which could not be asswaged by all the Noise of Faction, and the Incense of Sycophants ; for he was sick at Heart. The *Address* and the Bundle of *Libels* sent to *England* were no better than Palliatives. It is certain he declined visibly, and continued in a languishing Condition till the fourth of *September*, when he made his Country some amends by leaving it, I hope, for a much better.

His Death seemed no unfavourable Event for Mr. B--- ; yet he was far from being elated by it. The Fact is, he had lost all *Glee* for every thing the Country could do for him ; he said they had degraded him, and taught him to live, as a Governor, upon 2000 *l.* a Year, and he was perfectly indifferent whether he should be put to the Trouble of spending more. His Sincerity, in this Respect, I could prove by something more than Words ; let it suffice

that I assure you I have as clear Evidence of it as one Man can have of what another thinks.—Neither he nor his Friends shewed any token of Joy or Triumph ; no indecent Expression escaped from any of them, tho' he has been falsly charged with it. A Behaviour very different from what was shewn by some others but a few Weeks after. The worst thing he was ever heard to say upon the Occasion was, that he was only sorry the Speaker did not live some Months longer, that he might have made him more compleatly ridiculous ; which I can say, of my own Knowledge, he had fully in his Power, and would have done to the Purpose. He had in truth a sincere and hearty Contempt of that Person almost from the first Sight of him, insomuch that I never have known him laugh so cordially at any other Subject, and that too in the very Article of contriving the means of coming up with him. It is with true Regret that I am urg'd to say so many things to the Disadvantage of the late Speaker's Character ; I could have been well satisfied that his Faults had been buried with him ; I have not wantonly or maliciously taken up my Pen to disturb his Ashes ; but himself and his Friends have been the wicked, wilful Authors of my Trouble, and their own Reproach. Had they been so just as to speak nothing but Truth of Mr. B—, I had been so charitable as to say nothing of them. But when once
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it becomes unavoidable, that either Guilt or Innocence must suffer, an honest Mind can't deliberate long upon the Alternative. And yet the most partial of his Friends must allow, upon Recollection, that I have been far from indulging Ill-nature, or private Pique. Were I govern'd by Motives of this Kind, or were I to make Reprisals for the inhuman Treatment Mr. B—— and his Family have suffered; I could open a Field where the most inveterate Rancour might sport, without violating Truth, or resorting to any other means than a simple Narrative of Facts, which can be vouch'd by almost every Man or Woman in this Island. After all, one is really at a Loss which to admire most, the Wickedness or the Folly of this Faction. Could they imagine it feasible to blow up the King's Governor with one Blast of Slander, without allowing him a Hearing, or any Means of defending himself? Did they believe there were no honest Men in *Barbados*, such as had never bow'd the Knee to *Baal*, who would be ready to vindicate his Integrity, and expose their Malice? What could be expected from so vile an Enterprize, conducted by Persons who had neither Parts, Learning, Address, Knowledge of the World, or in truth any Talents, except matchless Impudence, and an Intrepidity in Lying?

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On the Death of the Speaker you'll imagine the Complexion of Things was chang'd. Some who seem'd to have forgot the Way to *Pilgrim*, came thither in Crowds, where they found a chearful Countenance, and a hearty Welcome. It was visible, that the Governor made a rapid Progress in gaining the Affections, and quieting the Minds of the Inhabitants, in spite of the most treacherous Efforts to the contrary ; so that there was no room to doubt his Composing all Differences in due time, by over-coming Evil with Good. But this fair Prospect was soon marr'd ; for he was snatch'd away, about a Month after his Adversary, by a malignant Fever, that had been fatal to Lord *Howe*, and many other Strangers. He died the 6th of *October*, with that Resignation and Fortitude, which is peculiar to Men of Sense and Probity ; much too early for this Colony, as well as for his Family ; esteem'd, belov'd, and lamented by all who knew him well ; hated by those who knew nothing of him. Why was not the Publick Sorrow for the Loss of such a Magistrate as universal, as it was at the Death of his Predecessor ?— The latter wore the *Demagogue's Leading-Strings* till they galled him ; the former disdain'd even to put them on. A sad Example of the Lottery of Characters ! But it is not for me to enter into
grave

grave Reflections, but leave that to you, who can do it much better.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a long History of a short Administration, in doing which I am not sensible that I have aggravated any thing on one side, or extenuated on the other. The two Persons, how unequal soever, who make the principal Subject of this Letter, are now in their Graves; so that I can't think it were possible to find a more infamous Employment, than sacrificing the Memory of either to that of the other, at the Expence of Truth. I fancy, Sir, you can hardly forget that I have no Partiality for Men in Power; and of all mortal Men in Power, I have the least Tenderneſs for Governors, whom I have had Occaſion, more than once, to regard as Grotesque Figures, dress'd up to shew the ridiculous and weak Side of Government. But I must confess with the same open Sincerity, that I could plainly discover, in the Magistrate so often mentioned, better Intentions, and a greater Alacrity in executing them, than I had ever seen before in the same Station. I shall not dwell upon his Affability, good Nature, his Readiness to oblige, with a happy Manner of conferring Favours; his Hospitality, which tho' supported by a Pitance, excelled every thing that you or I have seen in this Place; all these I regard only as the Trappings of his Merit. Allow me only to offer one
Proof,

Proof, among many of more substantial Worth. His Moderation was such, that he never would entertain a Thought of doubling the Number of the Matrosses, which he might have done at any time for eight Months together; being not only enabled, but seemingly required so to do, in a time of War, by a positive Law. Yet because it would have put the Country to a yearly Expence of 2250 *l.* which did not then appear to be absolutely necessary, he generously suspended the Execution of his Power in this Particular. Possibly, Sir, you will think some disoblig'd Governor, of a more vindictive Spirit, would have triumph'd in convincing the People, by making them feel that they had lost clear 250 *l.* a Year by their Bargain. I have sometimes thought a more harsh Temper would have better suited the rugged Task which Fate assign'd him; and I must own he wanted that happy Indifference for Good and Evil, which so eminently distinguish'd some of his Predecessors, who far'd much better; not by any superior Address, or Management of theirs, but by Conjunctions so favourable, that they could not help being prosperous.

The Members of his Majesty's Council have unanimously born Testimony to the publick Acts of Mr. B-----'s Government. The Lawyers to a Man applaud in him the patient

patient upright Judge. The Wise and Virtuous, throughout the Island, give him their Suffrages. To him we owe the best, the only good Commission of the Peace that any Man living has seen here, and this his Enemies confess; for he effectually clear'd it of all the Rubbish with which the *Demagogue* had loaded Lord H----'s Commission. He abhorr'd from his Soul all unworthy Promotions, more especially such as concerned the Distribution of publick Justice. The Concurrence of your best Friends gives a Sanction to what I write. As they interest themselves in the Cause of Justice and Truth, so they recommend it to your Care, well knowing that such a Cause is worthy of your Character, and suitable to your Disposition; for you delight in doing Justice both to the Living and the Dead. The perfect Acquaintance you have, as well with the Scene of Action, as the Genius and Spirit of most of the principal Actors, enables you to form the most exact Judgment of the whole, and to enlarge upon several Passages that are deliver'd only in the Way of Hints, and might therefore appear obscure to a Person less inform'd. Your Friends declare you'll run no risque in assuring those of Mr. B---, that he did nothing abroad to lessen the good Opinion they had of him at home; on the contrary, that many Parts of his Conduct must have rais'd their Esteem, had they

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been

been Witnesses of some Qualities, that can't be sufficiently display'd without being the first Man in a Place. They desire that his Cause may be try'd by Facts, not by general Assertions and equivocal Expressions. His Enemies are called upon to shew, that this *haughty imperious Governor* (as he has been called) ever treated those who came near him, even themselves, with Disdain, Anger, Distance, or indecent Language; that this *avaricious Man* ever made the least Attempt upon private Property or publick Treasure; that this *Tyrant* did one illegal or oppressive Act: Let them shew all or any of these things, and then I will give up all I have said for Slander and Fiction.

Is it then possible there should be found People so lost to all Sense of Virtue, and even of Humanity, who can study to reverse the Character of a Gentleman, and paint him black, when they know in their Consciences he is of a contrary Colour? to do this without Shame or Remorse, when there can be no Pretence of Mistake, Misinformation, or Surprize? The natural Answer is, there have been such very lately in this unhappy Spot; and I have no Scruple in pronouncing, from a certain Knowledge of what my Eyes have seen, and my Ears heard, that any Man in *England* would have met with Mr. B-----'s Fate, had he come in his Place, and done his

his Duty ; I am not certain, however, that many others would have born it with the same Equality of Mind. Hard is this Gentleman's Lot ! that, he who took more Pains to do good than I ever thought of experiencing in a *West-India* Governor, should be at last beholden to a surviving Friend to prove that he did no harm !

I must not conclude, without apologizing to you for making this *Letter* publick before it reaches you. My Reason for so doing is this, as it contains nothing that ought to be a Secret, and has little or no personal Relation to yourself, I was resolved to give the Enemies of our late Governor that fair Play which they denied him. They have now an Opportunity of maintaining their general Charge, by descending to Particulars, and refuting what is here offer'd in his Vindication. This, I am sure, is what they can't do, and consequently they will be left without Excuse. I defy Mankind to answer the Facts that I have stated, otherwise than by a *Vote of the House*. It was judg'd more than possible, that some Dirt might stick where so much had been thrown, and that this was the most likely Method to disabuse those who had given way to wrong Impressions. Be this as it will, I have endeavour'd to acquit myself of the Task with which
you

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you were pleas'd to charge me, without any
other Merit than that of being, .

S I R,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant.



Tho. Baxter.



